

August 23, 2022

Dr. Earthea Nance  
Regional Administrator  
South Central Region 6  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1201 Elm Street  
Dallas, Texas 75270

Dear Dr. Nance,

On behalf of the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, I wanted to thank you again for visiting with us in June 2022. The Port's team appreciated your interest in our many projects, and we certainly share your desire to expand engagement with our nearby communities. As a follow up and as you requested during our meeting, I'd like to extend a formal invitation for a technical briefing on the draft discharge permit for the proposed Harbor Island Desalination facility and our broader efforts to help address the region's water resource issues.

As I am sure you are aware, the draft permit was prepared by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and has been the subject of two (2) extensive administrative contested case hearings before the Texas State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH). On June 20, 2022, the SOAH Administrative Law Judges issued a Proposal for Decision (PFD) recommending the draft permit be approved. The 130-page long PFD reviewed and analyzed an incredible amount of information and evidence that was presented during the hearing. Given the extensive technical record associated with this draft permit and the lengthy permitting process to date, we believe there is value in providing a technical briefing to your group. Some of the basic details of the proposed desalination facility are self-evident, but there are other technical performance and environmental issues that are deserving of review and discussion. We are also willing to make our technical team available to answer questions you or your staff may have about the facility or the proposed discharge.

The Coastal Bend area (Nueces County, San Patricio County, and surrounding area) – which relies entirely upon surface water resources – has been experiencing drought conditions, and Stage 1 Water Restrictions are currently in effect for our urban center (Corpus Christi). The Port's proposed desalination facility will be a meaningful step to developing a renewable and reliable source of clean water to meet our community's needs. Given recent history and future predictions, we, as a community and a state, cannot wait another five or ten years to deploy desalination and other water reuse strategies if we hope to avoid the worst impacts of prolonged drought. Historically, our economically disadvantaged communities have suffered the greatest impacts

from prolonged drought conditions and water use restrictions – and this must be presently addressed.

For your awareness, the draft permit is scheduled to be presented to the TCEQ Commissioners on September 7, 2022, and if a technical briefing is of interest to you, conducting that briefing in advance of the TCEQ Commissioners' review of the draft permit may provide you and your staff with the best value.

We also very much look forward to hearing more about your conversations with our neighboring communities, and we would welcome the chance to schedule a follow up meeting with you and community members.

Sarah Garza, our Director of Environmental Planning & Compliance, is the point of contact for our team. Thanks very much for your time and your continued interest in our community.

Sincerely,  
PORT OF CORPUS CHRISTI AUTHORITY



Sean Strawbridge  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Helena Wooden-Aguilar, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator  
Delia Iris Gonzales, Chief of Staff  
Charles Maguire, Director, Region 6 Water Division  
Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management